

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SUGGESTED POINTS FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT DINNER
FOR KING CARL XVI GUSTAF

1. BELOW ARE SUGGESTED POINTS FOR REMARKS TO BE MADE BY
VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER AT DINNER TO BE GIVEN BY
AMBASSADOR WACHTMEISTER IN HONOR OF KING CARL XVI GUSTAF.

2. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SWEDES ENJOY VERY MUCH
HUMEROUS ANECDOTES INCLUDED IN AFTER DINNER REMARKS, AND
SWEDISH AFTER-DINNER SPEAKERS OFTEN BEGIN THEIR COMMENTS
WITH AN ANECDOTE OR JOKE. VICE PRESIDENT MIGHT WISH TO
ALLUDE TO HIS LONG-TIME FASCINATION WITH SWEDISH CUSTOMS,
INCLUDING THE ONE THAT PROHIBITS SKOALING BY GUESTS OF
HOSTESS IF MORE THAN EIGHT GUESTS ARE PRESENT (EIGHT, IN
SWEDISH VIEW, BEING THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SIPS THAT A
HOSTESS CAN HANDLE.)

3. POINTS:

(A) VISIT OF KING BRINGS TO MIND THE MANY SIGNIFICANT
CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY SWEDEN TO AMERICAN LIFE, INCLUDING
THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SWEDISH IMMIGRANTS DURING THE
19TH CENTUARY, WHOSE MIGRATION TO AMERICA HAS BEEN
DRAMATIZED IN THE NOVELS OF VILHELM MOBERG.

(B) IMPORTANCE OF SWEDISH ELEMENT IN AMERICA, AS PART
OF THE COMPLEX ENTITY CALLED AMERICA, MADE UP OF MANY
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DIFFERENT STRANS.

(C) LONG HISTORY OF SHARED VALUES BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES, INCLUDING OUR MUTUAL DEVOTION TO LIBERTY AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM, VALUES WHICH WERE SO ELOQUENTLY EXPRESSED 200 YEARS AGO IN OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. SWEDEN AND THE U.S. ARE BOTH SOCIETIES BASED ON DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES, IN A WORLD WHERE DEMOCRATIC STATES ARE IN A DECIDED MINORITY AND VERY MUCH UNDER ATTACK BY AUTHORITARIAN IDEOLOGIES.

(D) RECOGNITION OF FACT THAT OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE HAD OUR DIFFERENCES, BASED ON BOTH THE DIFFERENCES IN GEOPOLITICAL SITUATIONS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AS WELL AS DIFFERING PERCEPTIONS OF WORLD ISSUES; BUT UNDERNEATH THESE DIFFERENCES THERE HAS BEEN A SOLID BASIS OF SHARED VALUES AND BELIEF IN HUMAN DIGNITY AND THE RULE OF LAW, AS WELL AS A COMMON INTEREST IN SCIENTIFIC AND HUMANITARIAN ACHIEVEMENTS.

(E) HOW FITTING THAT THE KING, THE SYMBOL OF CONTINUITY IN SWEDEN, SHOULD BE VISITING THE UNITED STATES AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONHOOD.

4. IN SWEDISH (AND SCANDINAVIAN) TRADITION, ALL AFTER-DINNER SPEECHES (TACK FOR MATEN) INCLUDE PRAISE OF THE HOST AND HOSTESS FOR ARRANGING SUCH A DELIGHTFUL GATHERING AND SUPERB FOOD, ETC. AN APPROPRIATE PHRASE IN SWEDISH WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED. THE VICE PRESIDENT MIGHT ALSO WISH TO ALLUDE TO THE FACT THAT HE MET PRINCE BERTIL LAST SPRING IN WASHINGTON WHEN THE LATTER HEADED A SWEDISH TRADE DELEGATION TO THE U.S..
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